

ITALY'S FIGHTERS SCORE SUCCESSES DESPITE WINTER HANDICAPS

AUSTRIANS FAIL TO RETAKE POSTS IN COUNTER-MOVE

On Mountain Front Defensive Forces Gain Considerable Advantage Over Enemy.

Italy's mountain fighters are showing their ability to cope with the difficult winter conditions on the Italian northern front and are scoring successes in local operations in important sectors.

One such operation was carried out yesterday in the Monte Asolone region, just east of the Brenta river, where the Austro-German wedge was pushed further during the early winter campaigning in an effort to out-flank the dominating Monte Grappa. The Italian defensive was strengthened by this move and serious losses inflicted on the enemy.

Further east, near Monte Spioncin, a similar successful movement was effected, while on the lower Piave river front an Italian attack east of Capo Sile resulted in the capture of trenches which extended the Italian bridgehead. The Austrians launched repeated counter-attacks, but failed to dislodge the Italians from their new positions.

Rome, Jan. 15.—By an attack in the Monte Asolone region, on the northern front, the Italians have gained considerable advantages and inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy, says the war office.

YARMOUTH FIRED UPON BY GERMAN NAVAL FORCES

Three Killed and Ten Injured. First Hostile Attack From Sea in Some Time.

London, Jan. 15.—Yarmouth was bombarded from the sea last night, it is announced officially. About twenty shells fell in the city. Three persons were killed and ten injured.

The following official announcement was given out: "Yarmouth was bombarded from the sea last night. Fire was opened at 10:55 p.m. and lasted about five minutes, some twenty shells falling into the town.

"The latest police reports state that three persons were killed and ten injured. The material damage done was not serious."

Attacks by German naval forces on English coastal towns, of which there were a number early in the war, have been infrequent in recent months. The last previous occurrence of the kind officially reported was on Sept. 4, of last year. On that day a German submarine, the *U-20*, bombarded Scarborough, causing the death of three persons and the injury of five.

Yarmouth is in the North sea, 115 miles northeast of London. It is a city of some 50,000 inhabitants with important shipbuilding and fishing industries.

BLACKNESS OF NIGHT HID ENEMY NAVAL VESSEL

Yarmouth, England, Jan. 15.—The enemy craft which bombarded Yarmouth last night presumably was a submarine or a light cruiser. The bombardment, which was preceded by illumination of the town by large star shells, continued about eight minutes.

Owing to the blackness of the night, the enemy was not seen. He fired twenty to twenty-five shells in rapid succession. Many windows were shattered and a number of roofs and chimneys were wrecked.

Most of the inhabitants were in bed at the time of the attack. One of the three persons killed was a sailor aboard his ship who had escaped submarines in mid-ocean. The other two were killed in the street.

SENATE DEFEATS MOVE TO GIVE PRESIDENT POWER

Washington, Jan. 15.—An amendment to the pending resolution for government control of news print paper, which would have placed authority with the president, was defeated today in the senate, which voted to place the power entirely with the federal trade commission. Another vote will be necessary before the resolution finally is passed.

The senate as a committee of the whole then accepted the amendment of Senator Jones, of Washington, limiting newspapers to sixteen pages thirty days after the approval of the resolution.

DECORATION CEREMONIES UNDER OLD GLORY



This picture shows French decoration ceremonies taking place under the American flag. A French general is shown on the left saluting, in the fashion of his country, a hero who has just been decorated with the Cross of War. The decoration ceremonies took place during a review of the American troops in France. The Sammys are in familiar khaki.

REJECT PLAN TO RAISE DRAFT AGE

War Department Requests Bill for Registering Men Newly Become 21 Years Old.

Washington, Jan. 15.—At the request of the war department today, Chairman Chamberlain, of the senate military committee, introduced a bill for the registration for military duty of all men who have become 21 years old since June 5, 1917, when the draft law went into effect.

Another bill which Senator Chamberlain introduced at the request of the administration would provide for furloughing national army men for harvesting crops and other agricultural duty.

Another bill would put the quota of the states on the basis of available men in the first class instead of on population.

In determining upon the registration of men who have become 21 since the draft law was enacted, the war department has rejected any plan to raise the age limits of the draft to take in men more than 21.

Registration of men who have become of age since the draft law was enacted was recommended in the report of Provost Marshal-General Crowder as one of the means by which a supply of men for the national army might be assured without taking those who have other dependent upon them.

700,000 Each Year. It could be done also, the provost marshal-general pointed out, by extending the age limits above the present line of 21. The war department had adopted the first suggestion. It is estimated that it will add about 700,000 men to the draft available each year. Congressmen have been advised that further legislation would be necessary to perfect and carry on the draft, and the passage of Senator Chamberlain's bill with administration support, is expected promptly in both houses.

Button For Exempted Men. Another bill will be introduced by Senator Chamberlain which will provide a distinctive badge or button for exempted men.

The bill changing the basis of state quota is believed to provide a more equitable system, as it will exclude enemy aliens from the basis. Enemy aliens would be included in the basis for the first draft and there was much complaint. Heavy enemy alien populations in some congested districts forced Americans to army duty regardless of exemption claims to make up district quotas.

The bill to permit troops to go to agricultural work merely would authorize the secretary of war to furlough men for civilian duty. It is known, however, that the war department intends to use the authority principally to provide men for harvest time and other agricultural work vital to the food supply.

To Facilitate Collection of Private Insurance Policies Held by Troops, another bill would require private insurance companies to accept the official army record as proof of death of men among the army insured. It is designed to meet the cases of men reported missing to which there is no actual proof of death. In case of payment by insurance companies upon policies held by men reported missing, and who later should appear, the bill provides for reimbursement to the insurance companies by the government. Exemption of the government from payment of the new war tax on automobiles is the purpose of another bill introduced by Senator Chamberlain to deal principally with the large government purchase of motor trucks.

Arrangements have been made by the war department to fill from the second draft some time this spring the extensive vacancies in the coast artillery caused by the organization of provisional regiments of mobile heavy artillery for service in France. A limited number of men, who have particular aptitude for the special work of the corps, were obtained from the first draft, but there is still a deficiency of several thousand. Unless some unforeseen emergency develops, organization of regiments for foreign service in the corps will not be carried any farther than to complete units now in progress of development.

CONTROL OF DESTINY IN HANDS OF MILITARISTS

Pan-Germans Determined to Hold What Has Been Won by the Sword—Dismissal Von Kuehlmann Demanded—Ministers to Neutral Nations Return Unexpectedly to Berlin.

Control of the destinies of the German empire, press accounts from neutral countries agree, is passing into the hands of the militarists, or the leaders who want to hold what has been gained by might and the sword. Chancellor Von Hertling, the aged incumbent of the chief political office, again is reported ill and preparing to resign, while the militarists and pan-Germans are demanding the dismissal of Dr. Von Kuehlmann, the foreign secretary, who has headed the German delegations at Brest Litovsk.

In connection with the reported illness of the imperial chancellor it is reported from Berlin that Count Von Hertling's address before the main committee of the reichstag has been postponed for several days. It is said previously that the chancellor would answer the recent war aims statements of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George before the main committee on Wednesday.

Coupled with these reports is the fact that the German emperor and the crown prince have been holding conferences with the political and military leaders. It is reported also that the German ministers to Denmark and Holland have arrived unexpectedly in Berlin. Indications are that the present turmoil within the German ruling class will result in the acceptance of a firm policy, either favoring the militarists or the more peaceful element, with the probability that the pan-Germans will be victorious. The socialist Vorwaerts believes a military dictatorship is in the making.

No explanation has been vouchsafed by either the Germans or the Russians as to the reasons behind the temporary halt in the peace negotiations. Nor has it been announced officially why the conferences, if continued, are to be resumed at Warsaw.

A Bavarian newspaper says "Egyptian darkness enshrouds" Germany's peace terms.

The winter idleness on the western and Italian fronts has not been broken by large operations. Raids and patrol engagements occur here and there and the artillery fire breaks into violence at important points now and then but there is hardly anything in the official statements to indicate that Germany's huge reserves of 1,600,000 men from the Russian front is to begin its heralded blood fight soon.

ALLEGED GERMAN SPY TAKEN TO BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Jan. 15.—Walter Spormann, alleged German spy, who was arrested near Newport News, Va., charged with attempting to fire an army magazine near there, was brought here late this afternoon.

Handcuffed to a naval intelligence operative, Spormann was conveyed from Union station in a taxicab to the office of United States Marshal Chas. H. Stockham in the federal building.

HAD NO REGULAR HOME.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 15.—In reply to questions, Spormann, before leaving Richmond, said he had no regular place of residence, having lived in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore in recent years.

When asked where he stopped in Norfolk, he said he "always put up at the Monticello." He had forgotten the hotel recently was destroyed by fire.

When it was suggested that he may be suspected of having been a member of the crew of the Deutschland, the submarine merchantman that made two trips to America, he frowned.

"That sets me thinking," he said. "I was in Baltimore when the U-boat arrived and met several of the crew. Perhaps they think I may resemble one of them."

LANSING'S NOTE CAUSE OF CAILLAUX'S ARREST

Paris, Jan. 15.—The arrest yesterday of Former Premier Caillaux was due principally to a cablegram from Secretary Lansing at Washington, saying that in 1915 Caillaux had been in communication with the Berlin office.

Secretary Lansing's cablegram stated that the American representative at Buenos Aires had been able to establish that M. Caillaux, during his visit to Argentina in 1915, had been in communication with the Berlin foreign office through Count Von Luxburg, then German minister to Argentina, with the object of concluding peace with Germany at any price, so as to permit the resumption of business. It is understood this evidence will be published in America immediately.

DISCOVERED NEW ARCTIC LANDS

Capit. Lane Brings Direct News From Stefansson—Claimed Territory for Canada.

Fairbanks, Alaska, Jan. 15.—Several new large Arctic lands were discovered northwest of Banks Land in the spring of 1916 by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Arctic explorer, according to Capt. A. Lane, who arrived here last night from the Arctic coast bringing direct news from the explorer, who, he says, is spending the 1917-18 winter in the northern seas at Bartel island. The explorer claimed the new lands for Canada.

WANT MONDAY MADE HOLIDAY

Fuel Administration Recommends Means for Saving in Eastern Section.

New York, Jan. 15.—As a means of conserving fuel throughout the eastern states, which have been vitally affected by the coal shortage, it was announced today that federal fuel administrators have recommended that President Wilson declare Monday a legal holiday throughout this territory for the next eight or ten weeks.

PROPOSES INQUIRY OF "SLANDEROUS CHARGES"

Washington, Jan. 15.—Congressional investigation of "slandorous charges" against the character of American troops abroad, alleged to have been circulated by the Antislavery league, was proposed in a resolution today by Representative Cary, of Wisconsin.

RUMANIAN MINISTER AT PETROGRAD ARRESTED

London, Jan. 15.—The Rumanian minister at Petrograd and his entire staff have been arrested by the bolsheviks. The Rumanian legation here announces.

NO HOPE, SAYS BILLY

A sergeant was calling the company roll at the post yesterday when he happened to sneeze. Three Poles, two Swedes, five Italians and a half-dozen Greeks answered. "Here" spontaneously.

The weather? Fair and colder tonight; Wednesday increasing cloudiness, probably followed by snow and continued cold.

EMBITTERED DEBATE ENGAGED IN BY RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE ENVOYS

Brest-Litovsk Conference Adjourned, Teutons Finally Refusing Evacuation of Riga and Other Territory Offered at Opening of Sitting.

Disagreements Involved Date of Proposed Evacuation, Extent of Territories Affected, Admission Provincial Delegates and Meaning of "Self-Determination"

Amsterdam, Monday, Jan. 14.—The Wolff bureau, the semi-official news agency of Berlin, publishes a Brest Litovsk dispatch as follows:

"A committee composed of Germans, Austro-Hungarians and Russians, for the discussion of territorial questions, held three long sittings on Friday and Saturday. It was agreed that the first paragraph of the peace treaty should be a clause announcing that the state of war between the parties had been concluded.

"The Germans proposed a clause reading 'that the contracting parties have resolved henceforth to live in peace and friendship.'

Trotsky Refuses Sanction. "Leon Trotsky, the bolshevik foreign minister, refused to indorse this, declaring that it was 'a decorative phrase, which does not describe the relations which in the future will exist between the Russian and German peoples.'

"It was confirmed that the evacuation of occupied territory by both parties should take place on the basis of full reciprocity so that the evacuation by the central powers of Russian territory would synchronize with the evacuation by Russia of the occupied regions in Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Persia. Later, Persia was struck out, as not being a belligerent party, and M. Trotsky proposed to add the following:

"Russia undertakes as speedily as possible to remove her troops from neutral Persia."

"He said he had no other ground for this than a desire to emphasize the crisis wrong committed by the former Russian government against a neutral country."

INNOVATION AT CAMP SEVIER

One-Fifth of the Soldiers To Be Allowed to Leave Camp Every Afternoon.

Camp Sevier, S. C., Jan. 15.—The soldiers of the camp will doubtless welcome the recent innovation of camp discipline to be in effect next week, when one-fifth of the soldiers will be given leave each afternoon instead of all on Wednesday and Saturdays as heretofore.

This will allow a much greater number to visit the city during the period of one week, and will mean that they can get better service when they come and that the merchants will do a correspondingly greater business.

The general half-holiday Saturday afternoon will be continued but in place of the general holiday Wednesday afternoon, a certain number of organizations will be given leave each afternoon, the particular outfits having been so selected as to disturb the instruction schedule as little as possible and at the same time to allow roughly 6,000 men leave each of the five days from Monday to Friday. General Sunday leave will continue as formerly.

TWO SOLDIERS DIE FROM MENINGITIS

Four More Cases Develop at Camp Beauregard, Near Alexandria, Louisiana.

Alexandria, La., Jan. 15.—Two deaths in Alexandria and one at Camp Beauregard from meningitis during the past forty-eight hours were reported by health authorities last night. Four new cases developed in Alexandria, it was announced.

"The situation now is well in hand," was the statement issued at the base hospital at the camp last night. No limitation was given as to when the quarantine against the city and camp would be lifted.

The meningitis victim at Camp Beauregard was Private Luther S. Collins, of Louisiana. Corporal Herbert L. Fency and Private Chester Spainhauser, both of Arkansas, died of pneumonia.

HAIG'S INQUIRY PROVES DRIVE WAS NO SURPRISE

London, Jan. 15.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in the house of commons today that as a result of Field Marshal Haig's inquiry, the general staff, war cabinet and the government considered that the British higher army command had not been surprised by the German attacks in the Cambrai region Nov. 30, and that all proper and adequate dispositions had been made to meet it.

The chancellor said it was not necessary to dispel the rumor that Field Marshal Haig was being relieved of his command.

The discussion became embittered and the only result was a protest by Gen. Hoffman, of the German delegation, against the tone of the Russian delegation, which he said "speaks as if it stood victorious in our countries and could dictate conditions."

Hoffman Makes Charge. Gen. Hoffman reminded the delegates that the bolshevik authority, as much as the German, was founded on force, as instanced by what he termed the attempts to suppress the White Russia and the Ukrainian at the White Russian at the German. Hoffman finally declared that the German supreme army command must refuse to evacuate Courland, Lithuania, Riga and the islands in the Gulf of Riga.

Dr. Von Kuehlmann, the German foreign minister, then declared that he must reserve a further statement of the position of the central powers on all points until a consultation between the position the Russians had adopted of presenting their views in written declarations and said that the conference must be adjourned in order that there might be a consultation between the Teutonic allies. No date for the resumption of the conference was fixed.

DEFENSE COUNCIL IN SAVINGS TO NATION

Director Gifford Tells of Economies Effected by Efforts of Committees.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The council of national defense and its committees, Director Gifford told the senate war inquiry committee today, had filled a breach in the government's war machinery at a critical juncture and had saved the taxpayers millions of dollars.

Through voluntary agreements in price fixing, he said, the nation had been saved more than three billion dollars on steel. Other savings running into the millions, were cited on copper, lead, lumber and raw materials. Twenty million dollars alone was saved, he said, by changing plans for the army cantonment buildings from one to two stories. Other savings, Director Gifford cited in detail as follows:

Oats for army horses, \$1,000,000; cotton duck, \$1,225,000; leather, \$4,000,000; shoes, \$1,832,000; airplane motors, \$750 to \$900 on each one; spruce for airplanes, \$2,850,000; lumber for army cantonments, \$2,000,000.

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